CONTENTS

		PAGE	
	Message on the Second Edition		
	n Dr. Justice Vineet Kothari, Judge, Rajasthan High Court)		
Pref	Preface to the Second Edition		
	word	XXV	
	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.C. Lahoti, former Chief Justice of India)		
	reciation	xxvii	
	ervations	XXIX	
	Overview	xxxi	
	ace to the First Edition	XXXV	
List	of Photographs	xxxviii	
Intr	roduction	1	
The	ematic Structure	5	
	воок і		
	THE FRAGRANT YEARS (from 1937- 1964)		
1.	My Land, My People	17	
	Defining my observation-post – The Mithila as I see her before		
	my mind's eyes (in my <i>manasloka</i>) – The Seeds of Revolution		
	sprout from the soil – the Greatest <i>Krantiveeja</i> – Janaki (Sita) – The		
	glory of Mithila – Mithila's Unique Contribution to the World		
	- Tradition and Individual talent - The worldview generally		
	shared – Maithil culture does not promote consumerism, Our		
	agricultural way of life - Our religious syncretism - Dome of		
_	many coloured glass – Reflections on the present-day Mithila.		
2.	My Ancestors	31	
	The Quest – The Kashyap <i>gotra</i> – My ancestors – Their world –		
	The family tree.		
3.	Profile of my Father	42	
	Introduction – The <i>tamrapatra</i> given to my father by Mrs. Gandhi –		
	As a Freedom Fighter – The Trial – The period of imprisonment		
	- How the Movement began at Rosera - The Agitation at Rosera		
	– The Forces which sustained my Father in the period of crisis – The Gandhian edict at the Wardha Ashram – When I see the		
	present in the light of the past – As an Educationist – He was an		
	astik – Simple living and high thinking – The Declaration of		
	Emergency: my father's response – Prof. (Dr.) Bishwanath		
	Prasad's assessment.		
		• • •	

4.	Portrait of My Mother	PAGE 58
	Down the memory line: My Mother – Her birth; her name – Art of suffering with tongue-tied patience – Her Education – My <i>Diksha</i> – The craze for a son, & her distress – The Mahabharta in her family – My Mother and Father: their excellent chemistry – Her economic management – Her spiritual pursuits – Attitudes towards food, and the art of proper eating – I saw her in phantom before she died.	
5 .	My Birth : My odyssey thus began	72
	My Birth: reflections on this idea – Defining my observation- post – What my birth meant for my parents – The Starry Messenger – What my birth meant for me – What does it mean to the world - What it means in the cosmic flux – The First Faces I saw – The Goddess: the Chhatthi Mata.	
6.	My Childhood Days: The halcyon years	81
	The Naming Ceremony (the <i>Naamkaran</i>) – My Parents' attitudes towards children: they saw the Archer's hand – Down the memory lane – I hold myself under an infinite gratitude towards my Mother whose fragrance is ever fresh, ever sweet for me – The canoes adrift in the streams – The stories which amazed & enchanted, taught & delighted – The hyper-active inner courtyard – Round and round the prickly pear: how the bullocks trampled grain out – The House and its courtyard – The Witches – The Myna – The Creative Plasticity – What has ashamed me over all the years – When I drew my alphabet – The <i>Upanayana</i> (initiation).	
7.	My Adolescence: On swimming through the rainbow	93
	Scripting life on the five inches of ivory through the Storm and Stresses of the world – Love that led me to our classics: the fount of wisdom and delight – My Village – I came to Darbhanga – The Loiterer – At M.L. Academy – <i>Kavi Sammelan</i> (the Gathering of the poets) – The <i>Brahmachryashrama</i> : our way of looking at sex – Our philosophy of life – The Mysteries.	
8.	The Flowering of Mind: My Academic World	104
	At C. M. College, Darbhanga – The visit of Mrs. Indira Gandhi – My Teachers – The Darbhanga Raj – The Centenary Celebration of the First War of Independence – Darbhanga & Laheriasarai – At L. S. College, Muzaffarpur – The Department of English, The Cambridge English – My Teachers – My indiscretion: under the threat to "lay me by the heels" – The Sadhu and the Vaishya (a whore) – The Ways of God: The Book of Job– My Four Years of Lectureship (1960-1964) – The Chinese Aggression: India's dismal response – The Plight of Education – My quest for the Government Service.	

	BOOK II	PAGE
	A COG IN THE MACHINE (from 1964-1998)	
	A COG IIV THE WACHINE (Holl 1904-1990)	
9.	On Joining Civil Service	125
	At the National Academy of Administration – At the Income-tax Staff Training College, Nagpur.	
10.	My First Innings at Patna : Part-I	128
	Ascended the Chariot in 1965 to get down in 1998 – My First day in the office – The Problem of Black-money: the Art of pretending to solve the problem without ever solving it – I regret I prosecuted a good man – Assessing the Maharaja and the Raja to income-tax – The Aiyar Commission – The Moot Court & the Law of the Sea – India's acme of glory: The emergence of Bangladesh – The Flood.	
11.	My First Innings at Patna : Part-II	143
	Introduction to this Chapter – The Emergency – The circumstances in which the Emergency was declared – Portrait of the excesses during the Emergency – The Emergency: my critique – My Assessment – The JP Movement – The Bihar Movement – JP Movement against the Emergency – The Shah Commission of Inquiry – The Fate of the Commission's Report.	
12.	Patna: My Second Innings (The Fodder Scam)	154
	Introduction to this Chapter – An Overview of the Fodder Scam, & the response of the Government of Bihar – The Drama of the Absurd: where the Buffaloes travelled on the bike – Fraud on our Constitution: "Nero fiddled while Rome burnt" – The monitoring of the Cases by the Patna High Court – The concept of Judicial Monitoring: a critique of the concept – Objections raised – Reasons which called for the judicial monitoring – The nature and ambit of Mandamus – Grant of continuing Mandamus – The irrelevance of the doctrine of the Separation of Powers – The Province of the Functions of the State organs – My suggestions – The Plight of the CAG: this glamourous 'Constitutional orphan' – The Legislature that betrayed trust – "The Root of All Evil" grew apace – My Dismay & the Lessons to be drawn from Bihar's Fodder Scam – It is time to frame a new law to prevent the nation's loot – My visits to Orissa.	
13.	Plight of our Public Administration – Extracts from the	170
	Shah Commission of Inquiry Report	178
	Extracts from the general observations in the <i>Report of the Shah Commission of Inquiry</i> (1978), Chapter XV & XXIV – When RUMOURS ruled – The Plight of the Press – The idea to clip the wings of judiciary brooded upon – Motivated appointments and	

PAGE

subversion of public service – The Administration of MISA, and the duty of law-enforcing authorities – Moral component in public administration – The derelictions in the conduct of the civil servants – The story of demolitions – The conditions in the jails of our country – The way the government departments function: the CBDT & CBI – The degradation in civic culture, and the flawed role perception – Abuse of powers by persons nearer to the seats of power – What our nation expects from our public servants.

14. My years at Nagpur

188

The place – Dr. Ambedkar: A man turned into an icon – A visit to the Wardha Ashrama – Shivaji: my hero – My lectures and academic involvements – My Lecture at the Judicial Officers Training Institute – As the Commissioner of Income-tax – Facing allegations with Lord Krishna in my mind – When I ascended Sri Rama's arrow – Concluding Reflections.

15. My Phases in Calcutta, now Kolkata

199

On witnessing the Barbadhu – My assignments at Calcutta – As the Department's Senior Representative before the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal – the idea of 'Tax Court' and the 'National Tax Tribunal' – As an Examiner for the LL M. Examination – Dr. T.B. Smith – Dr. Bernard Schwartz – Dr. Rene David – Reflections on Calcutta – 'Hare Krishna' – My visit to Krishannagar and Mayapuri.

16. My Reflections on the Income-tax Law

211

Introductory comments – Taxation reflects values of a society, & attitudes towards 'property' - Popular, but perverse, attitudes towards taxation law - How the British Judges fared when they came to have the tryst with the Income-tax Law - The British courts adopt a new perspective, - Certain Changes in the **Statute of the Income-tax Suggested**: (a) Apt illustrations to the legal provisions may be incorporated in the statute, (b) 'Legislation in detail be abandoned, and replaced by legislation setting forth principles', (c) The linguistic and thematic structure of the Income-tax Law deserve to be simplified, (d) Plain English would help – Suggestion for constituting certain Committees for ongoing reforms - The Role of Parliament in 'Taxation'-Changing Judicial Perception of tax-evasion situations – The justification of the annual Finance Act – U.N. Multilateral Convention on Tax Treaties – The idea of constituting International Tax Authority (ITA) - 'Democratic Deficit' in framing tax treaties - Our Government's 'knowledge deficit'.

17. My Reflections on the Income-tax Administration

228

I joined the statutory Civil Service – The subversion of our Constitution and law – Those were the best days: My experience

18.

19.

20.

21.

	PAGE
in the Aiyar Commission phase – The Emergency – The Loot of the Nation. Whose Government? – Lack of Transparency: its lethal effect – The encroaching shadow of the WTO on the Laws of Direct Taxes – Shouldn't we go in for <i>droit administratif</i> ? – The Problem of Vigilance – The Union Administrative Services Commission – What is obvious is not always known – Hubert Monroe on the British tax administration – Classical Indian ideas on 'taxation'.	
On my Retirement	240
My retirement – Under debt to the profession – the Farewell – The story about a wise old bird – Reflections on my retirement – The way ahead.	
BOOK III	
ILLUSION & REALITY (from 1998-2014).	
Understanding the Imageries at the Supreme Court of India	247
On joining the Supreme Court – The imageries are metaphors – The visuals make poetic statements – The impression we get from the architecture of the Supreme Court – The Mural that evokes and suggests – The Goddess of Justice – On being weighed in the balances – <i>Kaliyugi</i> administration of Justice – The Emblem of the Supreme Court – On the <i>Chakra</i> – On <i>Dharma</i> – The Flag – Musings on the Mahatma at the Supreme Court – Conclusion.	
My Reflections on Krishna & the Galaxy of the Great	262
My reflection on Krishna – The Prelude – The historicity and reality of Krishna – The <i>Bhagavad-Gita</i> stated in brief – A remedy against the 'moral deficit' of our times – Our Problem – The 'Wallace Syndrome' – Our Guide to Duties, and the standards for evaluating actions – The Imperatives of the Grammar of Life – Krishna's attitudes towards 'Property' – Krishna's ideas of the Welfare State – Krishna and Buddha – Krishna and Jesus – Krishna and Muhammad – Krishna and Marx – Krishna and Gandhi – The Grammar of Revolution.	
Our Constitution at work	284
Dr. T.B. Smith's questions, and the answers given – The creatures of the Constitution must accept the discipline of the Constitution – Our 'Constitutional Socialism' – Historical Perspective – The collective consciousness of the Constituent Assembly – 'Socialism' under our philosophy – The Dimensions of our Constitutional Socialism – Philosophical dimension, Political Dimension, Social Dimension, Economic Dimension – Attitudes towards 'PROPERTY' under our 'Constitutional Socialism' –	

xvii

PAGE

The criticism of our Constitution's 'socialist mission' – 'Democratic deficit' in the exercise of our Government's Treaty-making – *Reductio ad absurdum* – Suggestions on valid Treaty- Making Procedure – Our Republic is in crisis – What went wrong with the Roman Republic – We are, when all is said, incorrigible optimists.

22. Our Democratic Republic and its Great Institutions

Introduction: The euphoria on the declaration of the Republic of India – Duties that our destiny casts on us – 'Women beware of *Women*'-Democracy-I cannot forget the vernal breeze from our classical India – Impact on the collective consciousness of our Constituent Assembly – The Western view of 'Democracy' – The nature and the parameters of the Western Democracy – Parliament: Expectations and achievements – An overview of history: how Parliament declined in England: lessons to be learnt - The widening role of the Executive Government - The Executive's attitudes towards Parliament: an instance of gross 'democratic deficit' - The Role of our Parliament: the years of shocking decline – The Plight of our Parliament – Our Parliament at work The character of our Parliament: our Constitution conceives it as the "Parliamentary Democracy" - The ethos of the day, and the ways of our Citizenry – Prayer - Our Political Parties; The nature of our polity - Political parties: whether essential for a democratic polity: our experience – The assessment of the role of political parties – On the Anna Hazare Movement – The Grammar of Revolution – Time to restructure our Polity: the idea of 'Partyless Democracy'.

23. Profile of a PIL in Revenue Matters

Introduction to the Chapter – PIL in the Revenue Matters – A Paradigm shift – Historical Perspective – the Trojan Horse on march – Material Points in the profile of the Indo-Mauritius Tax Treaty – An instance of the touch of Comus, the Fraudster – Storm in the tea cup – the context and the *casus belli* – Mauritius makes hay while the sun shines – It helps the emergence of the *entente cordiale* of Collusion and Fraud – Our Embassy did not give good account of itself – The Abuse of a Tax Treaty Case before the Delhi High Court – The Supreme Court reverses the High Court on Appeal – A critique of the Supreme Court's decision – "*Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* - Who will watch the watchers?"

24. Our Worldview & the Trends of Our Times

Introduction – Understanding the Grammar of the Dominant Western Worldview – The Trends of our Times – What they learnt from Modern History: India's First War of Independence – the lessons they learnt – The emergence of the syndrome of the 'Sponsored State' – From the Hall of Mirrors to World War

311

342

368

PAGE

I – the folly of the governments – The tragic error in judgment – The Great Wars as the metaphors: World War I – The royal road to World War II – Scripting human destiny sans wisdom, sans foresight – World War II – the *Mahabharat*a provides perspective which the world must not overlook – The World at the tinderbox – Towards World War III – Our illusion that the economic globalization is a sufficient guarantee against a major war – Institutions for international peace, and the operation of international law – The clash of civilizations – Our Cultural Crisis – The Judgment – Conclusion.

25. Certain Stories as my 'Objective Correlatives'

396

"Objective correlative" – as metaphors – Certain revealing stories briefly stated – (i) 'Story of Two Frogs' – (ii) 'Satranj Ke Khiladi' – (iii) 'Our Taj Mahal Economy' – (iv) 'Sone ki Lanka' – (v) 'The three Indias' – (vi) the 'Sparrow's Delight' – (vii) 'Extraordinary Popular Delusions and Madness' – (viii) 'Dance on the hood of the most venomous snake' – (ix) 'Kalaye tasme namah (कालाये तश्मे नमः)' – (x) 'Bali questions Rama' – (xi) 'Bindumati' – and (xii) 'HOPE – Penelope's story'.

26. The Realm of Darkness: The Triumph of Corporatocracy

407

The Realm of Darkness – Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and the world we see – A short profile of Kurtz and Comus at work in this neoliberal global economic architecture – The Story of Maharaja Parikshit as narrated in the *Mahabharata* – The global state system – classical state system yielded to the 'neoliberal' state system – The Indian Position – **The Instruments of Darkness** – The post-World War II scenario – the emergence of the corporate *imperium*, The nature of corporate consciousness in the world of the humans – A corporation cannot be an impervious cover-let of gross abuse – Crafting the structures of deception – "Let there be light", the Emergence of Corporatocracy, and the plight of Democracy – The Problem of Black Wealth stashed in foreign jurisdictions – I see a ray of light at the end of the tunnel – My advice to the think-tanks working for the corporate *imperium* – Conclusion.

27. Veenapani (वीणापाणि) – My wife

444

My musings on her photograph – My heart-attack – when She played the role of Savitri – She worshipped Lord Shiva, and performed *Rudravisheka* – Our marriage – She was a *Padmini* – Her First Coming to the house of her in-laws – The Festivals and the family rituals – When she met Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister – Her judicial verdict in *A Rickshaw Puller vs. A Rickshaw Puller* – The *Srimad Bhagavad Mahapurana* – Her song that moved Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha – Her life: a many coloured dome – She could smile even on the Wheel of Fire – Conclusion.

CONTENTS

		PAGE
28.	From Darkness to Light: My Reflections on the Black Money Case, & on the Anna Hazare Movement	461
	Reflections on the Black Money Case - the judicial technique examined - Broad constitutional principles of fundamental importance - a critique of the Case - The Judicial observations on the Indo-German Tax Treaty - Court's jurisdiction on Treaties - Our Parliament Weighed - The <i>Black Money Case</i> : our institutions weighed and found wanting - Anna Hazare Movement.	
29 .	The Portrait of our Time	485
	Introduction to the Chapter, <i>Towards Corporatocracy</i> : An Overview of the Western Political Thought - When the Republic comes on the edge: Abraham Lincoln's apprehensions - When crooks shake hands: G.K. Chesterton tells the story of Pilate and Herod - Capitalism, Corporate <i>imperium</i> and Corruption go together; <i>When Greed is Good</i> : the Black Magic of Capitalism - When Mammon Reigns - 'Corporatocracy' rules the world - 'Capitalism' and 'Corruption' go together - 'Corruptions' in our country; Bound upon the Wheel of Fire: Wealth clouds one's sense of Duty - Karna's dream: - <i>Conclusion</i>	
30 .	A Miscellany of my Ideas from my Personal Journal	509
	This Chapter is a compilation, from my Personal Journal, of my comments on diverse public issues of great contemporary relevance. For the topics touched see the first page of the Chapter 30.	
31.	Some Reflections on my life's Sonnet : The Closing Chapter	530
	At the confluence of the past and the present - my Three Passions - an overview of this Memoir - On the intellectual traditions of the East and the West - My Life: its grammar and loadstone - I tender an apology: my perspective on self - As we are now - Krishna: My Light and Delight - Reflections on My Life	
Pos	tscripts	
I.	Further Reflections on our Anti-corruption Movement : Challenge and Response	539
II.	Some of my Recommendatory comments for our Government and Citizenry to consider	544
III.	What I BELIEVE	548
IV.	SIT on black money: the first decision of the Modi Government	552
V.	The Destiny of our Nation: the advent of Narendra Modi	562
VI.	Reflections on the Constitution of India: Ambit of the Constitutional Restraints on the Treaty-Making Power	571
	Appendix to Postscipt VI: Global Economy: A Deal with the	
	Devil	593
INI	DEX	603